

Claims:

- 5 1. A method for restoring a subscriber context in a network element of a mobile communication network, comprising the steps of:
- 10 a) transmitting a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;
- b) continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart; and
- 15 c) inactivating a subscriber context updated before the latest restart.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said restart information is a restart counter value and is transmitted together with a context signaling message.
- 20 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said restart counter value is compared with a stored restart counter value so as to determine said subscriber context updated before the latest restart.
- 25 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said stored restart counter value is updated on the basis of said transmitted restart counter value.
- 30 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said restart information is transmitted only one time after said latest restart.

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6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said network element is GPRS support node, and wherein said restart information is transmitted together with a tunnel management signaling message. ✓

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context. ✓

8. A system for restoring a subscriber context in a network element (20) of a mobile communication network, comprising:

a) transmitting means (10) for transmitting to said network element (20) a restart information indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated after the latest restart;

b) wherein said network element (20) comprises receiving means (21) for receiving said restart information, and control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber context updated after said latest restart and for inactivation a subscriber context updated before said latest restart, in response to said restart information.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said transmitting means (10) comprises a restart counter (13) for counting a restart number, and an adding means (14) for adding said restart number to a subscriber context message, and wherein said network element (20) comprises a comparing means (23) for comparing said restart number with a restart number stored in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said control means (24) performs control so as to store a new subscriber context included in said subscriber context message and to

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delete an old subscriber context stored in said network element (20).

11. A system according to any one of claims 8 to 10,
5 wherein said network element is a GPRS support node (4,5)
and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

12. A network element (10) for a mobile communication
10 network, comprising transmitting means (15) for
transmitting a restart information indicating whether a
subscriber context has been updated after the latest
restart.

13. A network element according to claim 12, further
15 comprising a restart counter (13) for counting a restart
number, and adding means (14) for adding said restart
number to a subscriber context message.

14. A network element (20) for a mobile communication
20 network, comprising:

- a) receiving means (21) for receiving a restart information
indicating whether a subscriber context has been updated
after the latest restart, and
b) control means (24) for continuing the use of a subscriber
25 context updated after said latest restart and for
inactivating a subscriber context updated before said
latest restart in response to said restart information.

15. A network element according to claim 14, wherein said
30 restart information is a restart number and wherein said
network element (20) comprises comparing means (23) for
comparing said restart number with a restart number stored

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in a storing means (22) and for supplying the comparing result to said control means (24).

16. A network element according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein said network element is a GPRS support node (4,5) and wherein said subscriber context is a PDP context.

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